

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 20436

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UR, YU, CH
SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMENT ON CHAIRMAN HUA'S VISIT TO
YUGOSLAVIA

1. SUMMARY. TASS ARTICLE CARRIED IN PRAVDA AUGUST 25,
WHEN VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF STANDARD KID GLOVE TREATMENT OF
FRATERNAL ALLIES IN SOVIET PRESS, AMOUNTS TO HARSH CRITICISM
OF YUGOSLAVIA FOR HUA'S VISIT. YUGOSLAV DCM BELIEVES HIS
COUNTRY IS BEING SINGLED OUT FOR TOUGHER TREATMENT THAN
ROMANIA. HE ALSO BELIEVES SOVIETS MAY HAVE HARDENED
ITS LINE ON PRC BALKAN DIPLOMACY IN PAST DAY OR SO.
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END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA AUGUST 25 CARRIES A TOUGH TASS REPORT ON HUA'S
VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA WHICH LEAVES NO DOUBT ABOUT SOVIET
DISSATISFACTION WITH THE YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP'S HANDLING
OF THE VISIT. AFTER DRYLY AND SELECTIVELY DRAWING ON
TANJUG ACCOUNTS OF INTERPARTY AND ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS

CONDUCTED IN BELGRADE IN PAST DAYS, TASS REPORT STATES THAT HUA "IS CONTINUING TO USE THE POSSIBILITIES PROVIDED HIM" BY THE YUGOSLAVS TO MAKE STATEMENTS IN WHICH "CRUDE ATTACKS ON THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS POLICY" APPEAR. REPORT COMPLAINS AT LENGTH ABOUT YUGOSLAV PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CHINESE VISITS, CHARGING YUGOSLAV PAPERS ARE "NOT DISTANCING THEMSELVES FROM THE EXTREMELY ANTI-SOVIET STATEMENTS" OF HUA AND ARE NOT DISAVOWING CHINESE PUBLICATIONS SUGGESTING YUGOSLAVS ARE IN ACCORD WITH HUA'S STATEMENTS IN BELGRADE. YUGOSLAV "EVENING NEWS" IN PARTICULAR IS ATTACKED FOR SUGGESTING IN A RECENT ARTICLE THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONFERENCES ARE PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINO-SOVIET CONFLICT.

3. TASS ARTICLE CITES ASSESSMENT OF "CORRESPONDENTS FOLLOWING THE COURSE OF "HUA'S VISIT THAT HIS VISIT TO MACEDONIA WAS AIMED AT "SHARPENING RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN THE BALKANS." THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR IS QUOTED CALLING THE VISIT TO SKOPJE A "PREMEDITATED PROVOCATION." TASS NOTES THERE IS SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT WILL EMERGE FROM YUGOSLAV-PRC NEGOTIATIONS AND QUOTES THE LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES (WHICH IN TURN REFERS TO "AUTHORITATIVE YUGOSLAV SOURCES") THAT YUGOSLAVIA MAY AGREE TO SUPPLY ARMS TO CHINA.

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4. DCM, IN DISCUSSING SITUATION WITH US, SAID HE REGARDED THE TASS ARTICLE AS A NOTABLE HARDENING OF THE SOVIET LINE HE ALSO THOUGHT THE SOVIETS ARE TAKING A HARDER LINE ON YUGOSLAVIA THAN ROMANIA. THE YUGOSLAV SAID THE SOVIETS SEEM TO HAVE ABRUPTLY CHANGED THEIR APPROACH, SINCE THE INITIAL REPORTING ON HUA'S STAY IN YUGOSLAVIA WAS NOT SO HOSTILE. HE NOTED THAT HEAD OF MFA FIFTH EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT (BALKAN AFFAIRS) IN FACT HAD PRAISED TO HIM TITO'S SPEECH IN HUA'S HONOR DURING A CHANCE MEETING EARLIER THIS WEEK. (IN THIS REGARD, WE NOTE THAT THE TASS ARTICLE APPEARED AFTER A DAY OF NO COVERAGE ON HUA'S VISIT IN PRAVDA ON AUGUST 24. WE AGREE WITH YUGOSLAV MINISTER THAT THE TASS ARTICLE REFLECTS A DISTINCT HARDENING OF SOVIET PUBLIC POSITION. ITS REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE ARMS SALES APPEARS TO BETRAY A GENUINE, NOT MERELY DEMONSTRATIVE, CONCERN. TOON

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